

Bowls Wellington

Delegates Meeting Minutes

5/11/19

Pelorus Trust Sports House, Seaview

Present

Board	S. Way (Chair), D. Jackson (President), G. Macgregor, S. Buckle
Life Members	J. Harvey, D. McMurray, G. Macgregor,
General Manager	N. Dixon
Clubs Present	19
Clubs not present	Khandallah, Lyall Bay, Newtown, Seatoun, Wainuiomata, Workingmen's

Welcome

7:32 The Chair welcomed life members John Harvey, Don McMurray, Gerry Macgregor, Delegates, board members and observers to the meeting.

Apologies

Lorraine Brennan (Newtown), Brent Slater (Khandallah), Wayne Henshaw (Upper Hutt), Steve Maitland (Lyall Bay), Paul Latham (Dynasty Sport), Edna Collingwood (Karori) Rodney Foote (Whitby)

Obituaries

A moments silence was observed for Mary Grant (Upper Hutt), Bill Lloyd (Upper Hutt), Barrie Sole (Tawa Services), Maurice Kitney (Tawa Services) and Bill Weir (Tawa Services).

Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held July 30, 2019 were approved.

Matters arising

There was nothing specifically noted from the minutes. The Chair said any general discussion could be raised during General Business.

Ged Boyle

Ged Boyle from Just Paterson Real Estate addressed the room and discussed his involvement with bowls through the Wilton club. He spoke about the partnership with Bowls Wellington and the offer to clubs to donate \$1000 to any club whose member sells a house through him.

Don McMurray, Greenkeepers Association

Don McMurray spoke about the association's work and responsibility to provide the centre with up to date information to guide green allocations. In the past, green assessments were often done by asking players or the greenkeepers themselves. Both were problematic. Given this, the Greenkeepers Association has created a *Greens Assessment Form*, based off the Bowls NZ assessment criteria. This has been designed to assist clubs in self-assessing and evaluating their greens prior to evaluation by the Greenkeeper's Association.

While the Greenkeepers Association will continually work with clubs to monitor and evaluate greens, clubs have a responsibility to inform Bowls Wellington should a green become unsuitable. Especially in the lead up to a tournament if those greens were planned to be in use.

There was general discussion around greens. Leigh Griffin (Victoria) asked why Upper Hutt synthetic was used on the first day of the Mixed Pairs when the natural green was available. Allan Child (Upper Hutt) said that the decision was made in the morning by the greenkeeper in order to preserve the natural surface for post section, which was the priority. Allison Stewart (Island Bay) stated that whether people like it or not, synthetic turf is the future and the quality of a green should not be assessed on how it plays not what it is made of.

Thelma Chapman (Massey Ave) asked why Massey Ave was removed from Post Section for the Open Singles. Don McMurray had assessed that green in conjunction with their greenkeeper and they had agreed only 7 rinks were available. As post section required 8 rinks, it was decided to relocate, Massey Ave had been informed of this and the reason why.

Anton Ferrari (Naenae) and Alison Stewart (Island Bay) raised that green self assessments would need to be moderated. Don McMurray said that the forms would help greenkeepers to assess themselves prior to being assessed by greenkeepers.

The General Manager will send out a copy of the Green Assessment Form once a digital copy had been received.

Dennis Davidson, Eastbourne

Dennis Davidson (Eastbourne) spoke about the date by which Bowls NZ and Bowls Wellington specify membership numbers. Previously, it was said that this 'had always been done this way' which was challenged as a poor justification. The reason for this date was elaborated on with the fact players are not considered to be a 'member' until they have paid the membership fee, which they had often not done at the start of the season. Similarly, with many clubs closed or operating at a reduced capacity over winter, it is difficult to get a clear picture of what membership figures look like until later in the

season. It was noted that the membership fees were technically a liability for payment the following year and some clubs held the money for payment in the future. The Board Chair said that we would hopefully move towards the Bowls NZ model and a special AGM would be held early next year.

Graham Williams, Tawa

Graham Williams introduced a few points of discussion regarding cancellations and wet weather for interclub.

He asked for clubs to make a call by 7am about greens availability so players had surety about the game. Clubs pointed to the Conditions of Play which state that teams are not to be released until 9:30am in order for alternative venues to be arranged.

He suggested the removal of the clause which states that a game can be played at an alternative venue if the home and opposition clubs are unavailable. Club consensus was that if clubs are keen to play and can find a venue, they should be allowed to play. However, clubs are not obliged to find an alternative venue.

The point was raised that some clubs' interclub coordinators contact details were missing or incorrect in the handbook. Posting all coordinators details on the website was proposed but some clubs had privacy concerns. General Manager to send out an updated form requesting any coordinator updates for distribution to clubs.

Graham Williams (Tawa) asked the floor if Bowls Wellington should be making a call on cancellations. In the past there had been instances of days being cancelled when some clubs would have been fine to play. The Board Chair reiterated that despite the weather being poor on the date in question, a number of games were still played during the morning and afternoon. Clubs were strongly in favour of retaining responsibility over their own green cancellations and that clubs needed to communicate better.

Leigh Griffin (Victoria) asked about whether the Postponement Day on 18th January could be shifted. Dayle Jackson (Miramar) said that some clubs do hold events on Wellington Anniversary weekend. The Board Chair said that the board will look at alternatives but may be dictated by an already tight schedule. Alison Stewart (Island Bay) said that clubs could choose an alternate day which would give clubs flexibility if they were unable to play on that day anyway.

Colin Amer (Titahi Bay) asked for clarification around who provides markers when a home match is relocated. It remains the responsibility of the original 'home' team to provide a marker, regardless of whether the match is moved to the opposing club or an alternative venue due to weather.

Bowls Wellington Survey

The Board Chair summarised the findings from the Bowls Wellington survey over winter. Invitations were sent to 700 email addresses which had been taken from the club databases with 267 responses. Clubs were encouraged and reminded to keep these databases up to date.

68.3% of respondents were men compared with 31.7% women, which is reflective of the gender ratio in Wellington. 70% of respondents were over 60 years old. 42% were over 70 challenging the belief that this demographic does not have online access or capability.

Of the respondents, 178 were involved in centre events with 149 involved in interclub and 103 in Pennants (some may have played both).

As to the question why someone would not be involved with a centre events, 20% had only just started playing bowls, 28% didn't think they were good enough and 16% said no one had asked them. This shows that a lot of easy wins could be gained by clubs and the centre engaging more with these people.

There was no significant demand to bring back a prizegiving regardless of price point. Most respondents (44.2%) preferred prizes to be awarded at each event and 33% said they would only be interested in attending a prizegiving if they were getting an award.

Regarding Synthetic vs Natural Greens, 8.7% didn't like natural greens, 31% didn't have a preference, while 55.3% didn't mind using synthetics but would prefer natural implying a softening of attitudes towards synthetic, providing they are suitable quality.

Other business

Anton Ferrari (Naenae) suggesting removing a time limit for the Open Singles. Brett Cameron (Plimmerton) spoke about how they needed the time limit when they hosted due to some players taking too long.

Discussion around picking rep sides based on the surfaces they will be playing on and ensuring that rep players be on the best greens. Jason Puddick (Stokes Valley) asked why rep players should get preference over non-rep players, Dayle Jackson (Miramar) concurred. Dayle Jackson spoke about the recent WKWM victory when they played on natural greens but trained exclusively on synthetic.

Leigh Griffin (Victoria) suggested that Interclub format follow National regulations. General Manager agreed Wellington competitions should mirror the national pathway. The Board Chair reiterated the process for making such changes is for submissions to be made via clubs to the Operations Committee at the end of the year. Don McMurray suggested those that make proposals be able to speak to them to the Operations Committee. Consensus that this is a good idea and there should be an expectation that any clubs making proposals should be prepared to talk to it.

Gerry Macgregor thanked all the clubs who provided greens and markers for the Open Singles and those involved in the Mixed Pairs. Thelma Chapman thanked the umpires for their assistance at the recent Open Singles.

The General Manager spoke about an upcoming fundraising workshop facilitated by Cancer Society on Monday, November 25th 7-9pm at Pelorus Trust Sports House. This is a free event and clubs and players were encouraged to come along.

Closed 9:12